

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Uwe HEITMANN et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: January 29, 2001

For: METHOD AND ARRANGEMENT
FOR PRODUCING COMPOUND
FILTERS

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Atty. Docket No. 31976-177336 RK

Customer No.



26694

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Preliminary Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the fees, please amend the claims of the above-identified application to read as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

16. (Amended) An arrangement for manufacturing compound filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising:

a filter tube feeding element;

at least one processing station one of which comprises a rotating device for rotating filter tubes; and
at least one conveyor into which filter tubes are deposited from the feeding element for supplying the filter tubes to the at least one processing station.

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38. (Amended) A method for producing multiple unit filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising the following operational steps:

supplying a filter tube to a predetermined position; and
inserting predetermined portions of filtering material into the filter tube, said inserting step including inserting at least two portions of the filtering material into the filter tube during one operational step.

39. (Amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein the filter tube has at least one end and said inserting step includes filling the filter tube from only one end.

47. (Amended) The method according to claim 38, including producing a multiple unit filter of n units, wherein n is a natural, even number higher than 1.

61. (Amended) A multiple unit filter manufacturing system for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising:

a filter-tube feeding apparatus;

a conveying system for conveying filter tubes supplied by the filter-tube feeding apparatus along a predetermined movement path; and

at least one processing station receiving filter tubes from the conveying system, said at least one processing station including at least processing station for inserting at least two portions of filtering materials into at least one filter tube during one operational step.

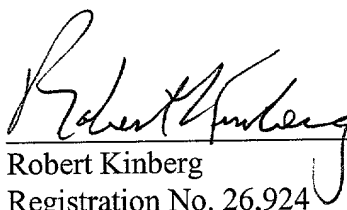
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REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is made to amend the claims to incorporate handwritten changes made by the Applicants. Examination on the merits of the application is requested. A marked-up version showing the changes made to the claims is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 29, 2002



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

16. An arrangement for manufacturing compound filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising:

a filter tube feeding element;

at least one processing station one of which comprises a rotating device for rotating filter tubes; and

at least one conveyor into which filter tubes are deposited from the feeding element for supplying the filter tubes to the at least one processing station.

Claim 38 has been amended as follows:

38. A method for producing multiple unit ~~length~~ filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising the following operational steps:

supplying a filter tube to a predetermined position; and

inserting predetermined portions of filtering material into the filter tube, said inserting step including inserting at least two portions of the filtering material into the filter tube during one operational step.

Claim 39 has been amended as follows:

39. The method according to claim 38, wherein the filter tube has at least one end and said inserting step includes filling the filter tube from only ~~the~~ one end.

Claim 47 has been amended as follows:

47. The method according to claim 38, including producing a multiple unit ~~length~~ filter of ~~n/units~~ length, wherein n is a natural, even number higher than 1.

Claim 61 has been amended as follows:

61. A multiple unit ~~length~~ filter manufacturing system for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising:

a filter-tube feeding apparatus;

a conveying system for conveying filter tubes supplied by the filter-tube feeding apparatus along a predetermined movement path; and

at least one processing station receiving filter tubes from the conveying system, said at least one processing station including at least processing station for inserting at least two portions of filtering materials into at least one filter tube during one operational step.